

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 EUR-12 IO-10 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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R 101202Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6448

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KATZIR TO ATTEND HERUT PARTY CONFERENCE IN
KIRYAT ARBA

1. SUMMARY. HEBRON MAYOR JAABARI HAS PUBLICLY PROTESTED PRESIDENT KATZIR'S PLANS TO ATTEND OPENING SESSION OF HERUT PARTY CONFERENCE IN KIRYAT ARBA JAN 12. CALLING ON KATZIR TO RECONSIDER DECISION, JAABARI CALLED HOLDING OF MEETING "ON ARAB LANDS" PROVOCATION AND SAID IT WOULD DIMINISH CHANCES OF PEACE. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE DAYAN AND EBAN WILL ALSO ATTEND AND THAT IDF PLANNING SPECIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY

2. JERUSALEM ARABIC DAILY AL QUDS JAN 9 PUBLISHED REPORT OF PROTEST BY HEBRON MAYOR, SHEIK MOHAMMAD ALI JAABARI, AGAINST PLANS OF ISRAELI PRESIDENT EPHRAIM KATZIR TO ATTEND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF GOI OPPOSITION PARTY HERUT TO BE HELD IN KIRYAT
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ARBA, JEWISH SETTLEMENT AT HEBRON, SUNDAY, JAN 12. HE EXPRESSED

HOPE KATZIR WOULD RECONSIDER HIS ACCEPTANCE OF HERUT INVITATION AND THUS AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN EVENT LIKELY TO RENDER CHANCES OF PEACE BETWEEN "BOTH OUR PEOPLES" REMOTE. JAABARI, WHO HAD ALREADY VOICED OPPOSITION TO MEETING WHEN FIRST ANNOUNCED, ASSERTED THAT TO HOLD CONFERENCE "ON ARAB LANDS OF HEBRON" IS PROVOCATION AND CHALLENGE TO PEOPLE OF DISTRICT AND AREA IN GENERAL. HE WOULD HAVE HOPED, HE SAID, THAT KATZIR VISIT TO HEBRON WOULD BE TO SURVEY NEEDS OF DISTRICT AND TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING, NOT TO COMPLICATE PROBLEMS FURTHER.

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTS REQUESTS BY MAPAM SECRETARY-GENERAL MEIR TALMI AND MAPAM YOUTH DIVISION THAT KATZIR RECONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF HERUT INVITATION. WILL-INFORMED ISRAELI JOURNALIST TELLS US, HOWEVER, THAT IT CUSTOMARY FOR PRESIDENT TO ATTEND SUCH OPENING SESSIONS OF PARTY CONFERENCES AND IT UNLIKELY KATZIR WILL REVERSE DECISION TO GO. ACCORDING TO PRESS FORMER DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS MOSHE DAYAN AND ABBA EBAN ALSO PLAN TO ATTEND. WE UNDERSTAND PARTIES NORMALLY HOLD OPENING CONFERENCE SESSIONS IN JERUSALEM, WITH REMAINDER OF MEETING TAKING PLACE IN TEL AVIV. HERUT IS HOLDING FIRST DAY'S SESSION IN KIRYAT ARBA INSTEAD OF JERUSALEM BUT MOVING TO TEL AVIV FOR REST OF MEETING AS USUAL. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS WILL BE FIRST SUCH PARTY MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEST BANK.

4. ISRAELI HEBREW DAILY HAARETZ REPORTS THAT IDF WILL PROVIDE SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS IN HERUT CONFERENCE, INCLUDING ALONG JERUSALEM-HEBRON ROAD. SHEIKH JAABARI COMMENTED THAT IF HE WERE "IN DIFFERENT POSITION" HE WOULD WONDER AT UTILIZATION OF ARMY IN PREPARATIONS FOR "UNFRUITFUL" PROJECT. HE ALSO ASKED "TO WHOM WE SHOULD TURN", IN LIGHT OF KATZIR ACTION, IF FACED WITH MORE RESTRICTIONS AND DIFFICULTIES.

5. AL QUDS ALSO REPORTS THAT KIRYAT ARBA COMMITTEE HAS SUBMITTED REQUEST TO PRIME MINISTER AND VARIOUS OTHER GOI MINISTERS FOR INCREASE IN BUDGET ALLOCATION TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF 1000 NEW HOUSING UNITS THERE DURING NEXT FISCAL YEAR INSTEAD OF ONLY 150 UNITS NOW APPROVED.

DAY

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